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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6997
INFO RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 3156
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 6496
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA 6506
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 9543
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL 3189
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 7185
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 9433
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 3653
RUEHCI/AMCONSUL CALCUTTA 5562
RUEHCG/AMCONSUL CHENNAI 5579
RUEHKP/AMCONSUL KARACHI 4933
RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE 2895
RUEHBI/AMCONSUL MUMBAI 4803
RUEHPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR 3537
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEIDN/DNI WASHINGTON DC
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 1803
RHMFISS/HQ USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 4103
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI
RHMFISS/HQ USSOCOM MACDILL AFB FL
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 005238

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/26/2016

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [IN](#) [AF](#)

SUBJECT: GOI BOLSTERING SECURITY FOR AFGHANISTAN ROAD
PROJECT

Classified By: A/PolCouns Jon P. Dorschner for reasons 1.4 (B,D)

¶1. (C) On July 25, Poloff met with MEA Undersecretary Aquino Vimal (Afghanistan) to discuss current Indian aid programs in Afghanistan. Vimal confirmed that the GOI has sent additional federal police forces (Indo-Tibetan Border Patrol) in batches of 20-30 troops per month, to bolster security for the Indian-funded Zaranj-Delaram road-building project in the southwestern Nimruz province. This has increased the number of Indian paramilitary troops in Afghanistan from 40 at the beginning of the year to nearly 300 now. Vimal added that these troops do not have a mandate for aggressive action, and are limited strictly to defense of the construction compound.

¶2. (C) Vimal had little substantive to say about current progress of GOI aid projects in Afghanistan, (including promised GOI military aid to the ANA,) stating "our embassy in Kabul actually handles all the logistics, and then sends us the bill." He urged us to inquire with the Indian embassy in Kabul.

¶3. (C) Vimal confirmed that the Afghan and Indian Foreign Ministers will attend the July 29 - August 3 SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) conclave in Dhaka. He also noted that Foreign Secretary Saran will likely go to Kabul next month but provided no further details. Vimal also mentioned that the Afghan and Indian Commerce Ministers plan to meet in Kabul, but a date has not yet been set.
PYATT